



ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

Recombinant polynucleotides and methods for altering the regulation of geneexpression in plants are provided to modify a plant's traits, in particular disease tolerance.

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Plants transformed with a plant APZ transcription factor encoding polynucleotide, isolated from Arabidopsis, that enhances tolerance to fungal disease, especially fungal diseases caused by Fusarium, Erysiphe, Sclenotinia and Botrytis.